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Eakins pleads the fifth on Bryz vs. Scriv

Oilers goalie controversy a good problem: Coach **PAGE 26**

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PROUD TO BE PINK

Faculty, students and staff from the University of Alberta gather together Wednesday to kick off Pride Week at the school, along with Pink T-Shirt Day. For more details on Pride Week, check out page 6.

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

'I saw some little fingers moving': Good samaritan

Addison Alert. Alberta man who found baby after car theft says he was 'in the right place'



RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

When Jason Hemerle walked out from the home he was house-sitting on Tuesday and saw a baby's car seat in front of him he was shocked, but there were more surprises to come.

"I looked down to see what if anything was inside and then I saw some little fingers moving," he said.

Just 15 minutes earlier, Hemerle had gone outside to start his vehicle before he left for work and when he stepped back out baby Addison was there in front of him.

Addison had been in the back seat of her mother's vehicle when it was stolen from outside her home in Grand Prairie, prompting an Amber Alert and a frantic search.

Hemerle's house was down the highway in Grovedale and he said he had heard about the Amber Alert and the stolen truck, but he didn't put it together until emergency workers arrived.

He gives the RCMP and other emergency workers the credit and insists he's no hero.

"They were worried sick, but determined to find this little girl and I just happened

to be in the right place at the right time," he said.

Addison's mom has said she looks forward to meeting Hemerle. He said he looks forward to that too, once she's over the shock of the last two days.

He said since this incident he has thought about how it could have ended considerably worse.

"I take consolation in knowing the best possible outcome was the actual outcome and that makes me feel good."

After Addison was found safe, the RCMP arrested two adults and one young-offender a short distance away.

The three accused, two from Grande Prairie and a youth from Edmonton, are facing charges of kidnapping, child abandonment and theft of a motor vehicle and are expected to make a court appearance Monday.

Happy ending

"I can't wait to hear from her and hear how little Addison is doing."

Jason Hemerle on Addison's mother

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'jiggery-pokery'?

Province foresees operational surplus but big capital deficit

Alberta is on track to record a \$1.4-billion surplus on day-to-day spending this year, but it will be \$8.5 billion in the hole on the capital side due to borrowing for new schools and roads.

Finance Minister Doug Horner had originally forecast a \$451-million deficit on day-to-day operational spending but said Wednesday that higher-than-expected oil prices, along with a low Canadian dollar, have changed the outlook.

"We're turning the corner," Horner told a legislature news conference as he delivered his third-quarter budget update for 2013-14.

"But we know that we must still be careful about what lies ahead. We need to be ready for what we can't see around that corner."

Horner said given the volatility in oil and gas prices, the province will continue to hold the line on spending when he brings down the 2014-15 budget on March 6.

"We will deal with the pressures that come from a rapidly growing population but we're not opening up the spending taps. Today's surplus will be used to cushion future drops in revenue."

Wildrose critic Rob Anderson accused Premier Alison Redford's team of "jiggery-pokery" to hide a consolidated deficit this year of \$3.5 billion.

"The minister says we've turned the corner. We've not turned the corner," said Anderson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A screenshot from Nadine White and her husband Brad Clayton's GoFundMe page, where they are hoping to raise money for IVF treatment. CONTRIBUTED

Crowdfunding the creation of new life

In vitro fertilization. It's not uncommon to seek alternate funding for a pregnancy: Group



LEAH GERMAIN
leah.germain@metronews.ca

Faced with the expense of in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment, one Alberta woman is turning to an online fundraising campaign to raise the money she needs to get pregnant.

Originally from Ontario but

now living in Innisfail, Nadine White has struggled to conceive because of a polycystic ovary syndrome.

After three bouts of intrauterine insemination, White and her husband opted for IVF but were faced with the procedure's cost along with the expense of travelling to Edmonton for treatment.

Rather than lose hope, White set up an account on GoFundMe called "Donate to Create Baby White."

Since launching the donation platform in June, the pair has received more than \$2,900.

"It's just a way to get your message out there and get

Expense

\$10-15K

One batch of IVF treatment costs between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

help," White said. "It's reaching out to people without technically going to each person."

Terri Abraham, president of the Generations of Hope Fertility Assistance Fund, an organization that helps fund IVF treatments in Calgary, said White's situation isn't unusual.

"We've heard of people do-

ing bottle drives, bake sales, remortgaging their homes," she said.

"It's really about ... supporting the creation of a family."

Along with helping to fund IVF treatment, Generations of Hope is petitioning to get the procedure covered by Alberta Health.

"Why fertility is excluded is beyond me," Abraham said, adding that recent research shows by providing public funding for fertility treatment, the province would save money on multiple births, which can be taxing on resources.

1 NEWS

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Brothers and sisters too?

Sibling rule. EPSB to make decision for south-side school

Just two weeks after Edmonton's public school board released its new plan to curb overcrowding in 11 schools, parents from Michael Strembitsky School are still waiting for answers.

After the school's boundaries were realigned and existing students grandfathered in, parents at the south-side school are in the dark on whether or not their other children will have automatic enrollment.

"That's a big question mark right now," said Strembitsky parent Gale Johnson.

The sibling rule allows for an existing student's younger siblings to automatically enroll at the same school. While it was kept at many of the other schools that recently had boundary changes, the district has yet to make a decision in the case of Strembitsky.

Johnson said most parents were happy about the school board's decision to maintain

the kindergarten to Grade 9 structure at the school, but are now concerned about its impending decision on siblings.

The district sent home a questionnaire earlier this week to determine the feasibility of accommodating more students at Michael Strembitsky.

School principal Lisa Wright said whatever the decision the district makes, she wants parents to feel their children will be welcomed and will succeed at any EPSB school.

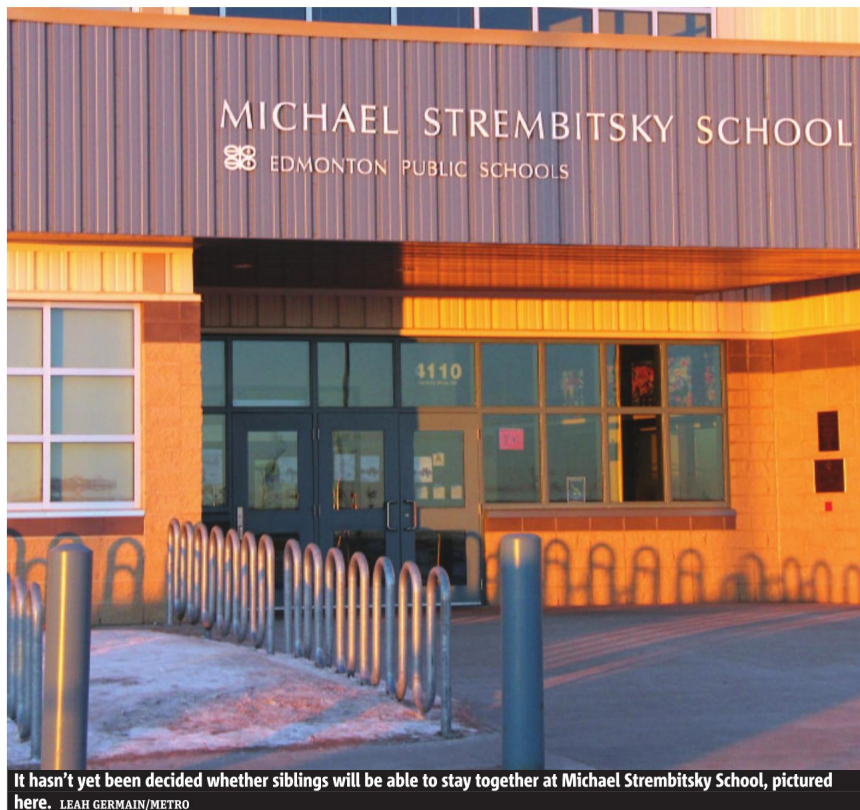
"We have a strong sense that they're all our kids, whether they are in Strembitsky or (not), they're all our kids," Wright said.

With a decision expected early next week, Wright said she is aware some families may be unhappy.

"There is relief in understanding what the decisions are, but along that there has been a continuum of emotions," she said.

Following the Feb. 18 decision from the district, Strembitsky will now only serve students living in the Summerside East neighbourhood.

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO



It hasn't yet been decided whether siblings will be able to stay together at Michael Strembitsky School, pictured here. LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

Kerry Diotte

Former councillor looks to run for Conservatives

Former city councillor and mayoral contender Kerry Diotte has announced plans to run for the federal Conservatives. Diotte, who came in third in the mayoral contest, is looking to become the federal Conservative candidate in Edmonton-Griesbach. "I found public service incredibly rewarding and would love the opportunity to continue," he said in a release.

Diotte said he wants to ensure the province continues to have a strong voice in Ottawa. **METRO**

Clarification, Jan. 23

A piece in Metro titled "KARE officers see different scene on Edmonton streets at night" indicated sex-trade workers could be found in the Whyte Ave. area, a comment attributed to social services workers. The source indicated they serve people in crisis in all areas of the city, but didn't single out sex-trade workers.



CMT's Burger Wars TV show film crew were at The Next Act Pub Wednesday filming part of the upcoming episode. STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

TV show to crown city's best burger

Three local restaurants are ready to battle in the kitchen and bring their best patty forward as part of CMT's Burger Wars television show.

The Next Act Pub portion of the show was filmed partially on Wednesday, with the show's star comedian Cris Nannarone talking to the restaurant's chef about their burgers.

"It's a friendly competition," said Mike Angus, gen-

eral manager at Next Act Pub.

In the food reality-type show, restaurants cook up their best burgers for a panel tasting in hopes of being crowned the best burger in the city.

Restaurant officials at Next Act — which is no stranger to top burger and other food awards — say their customers love their unique burgers, one of the reasons they think they were chosen for

the show.

"Our reputation is starting to be (that) we do have the best burgers in town," said Angus.

Rodeo Burger and Delux Burger Bar restaurants will also get a chance to showcase their burgers as part of the TV show, according to show producers.

The panel of unbiased judges will be revisiting Next Act Pub Saturday for the judg-

The competition

3

Three chefs, one from each restaurant, will square off for the television competition.

ing portion of the show. The local episode is expected to air sometime this spring or summer, according to producers. **STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO**

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Eilidh Knudsen, Alexis Hillyard, Emily St-Aubin and Alison Brooks-Starks are all smiles for the kick off to UAlberta Pride Week. LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

Looking pretty in pink at U of A's Pride Week kick off

True colours. Week-long festivities include drag show and Orange is the New Black star

LEAH GERMAIN

leah.germain@metronews.ca

University of Alberta students looked pretty in pink Wednesday afternoon for the kick-off of the school's pride week.

Colouring the University of Alberta pink, students, faculty and staff pooled together at the Telus Centre on campus to show their support for Pink T-Shirt Day and the official launch to UAlberta Pride Week.

With support from the university's brand new Crowd-Funding program, Alexis

At a glance

- For more information on the week's events, visit prideweek.ualberta.ca

Hillyard, an advisor with the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies & Services, said organizers were able to reach more people.

"It's been a neat way to build community across wider channels," said Hillyard, dressed in pink. "It's about reaching out to faculty, students and alumni to get the word out there and get support for the event."

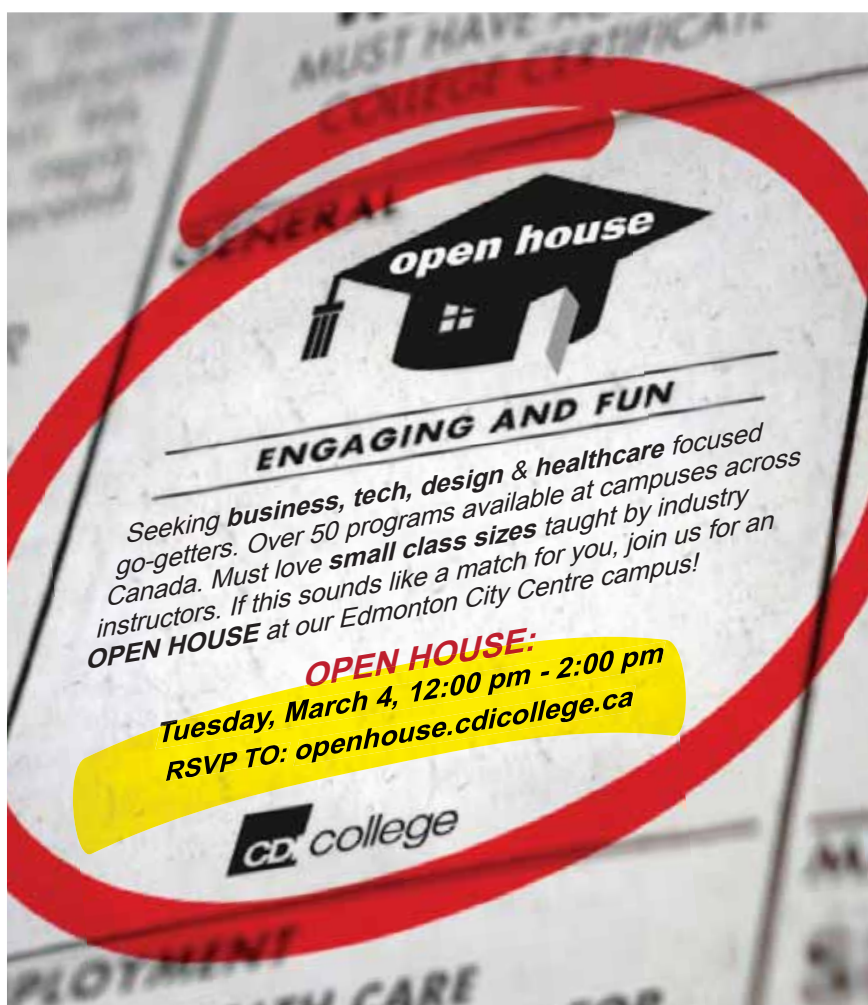
With the goal to make the events free, Hillyard said organizers were able to raise \$8,000 so far through the funding initiative, with

hopes of meeting their goal of \$15,000 within the next 10 days.

"I think the most important thing is a statement from the U of A saying this institution respects and affirms who you are and we're working towards creating a more equitable and safe environment," she said.

With plans for a drag show, speakers series and Pride Parade, the week long celebration even features Laverne Cox, a transgender actress from the Netflix show Orange is the New Black.

"Pride week for me, personally, provides that visibility that I would have loved to see if I was a high school student coming into the university framework," said Nicholas Diaz, a U of A student who works with the Outreach Student Group.



Talent. Local student doodles his way to the top of Google contest

Local student Sam Yu was one of four national finalists for his electrifying entry in the Doodle 4 Google contest, beating out students from across the Prairies.

Students across the country sent in sketches for the chance to have their design on Google's homepage for 24 hours.

Yu's design Electric Trees won him the title for the region and a \$5,000 university or college scholarship and a Chromebook.

The Grade 10 St. Francis Xavier student used a friend

as inspiration for his sketch which features a young girl planting a seed followed by an older girl sitting against the matured tree.

A wire wrapped around the tree is supposed to represent electricity in his detailed sketch, according to Yu, who was unavailable for comment before time of press.

Toronto-area student Cindy Tang won the national prize and had her Doodle on Google's homepage displayed for 24 hours.

STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO



St. Francis Xavier High School student Sam Yu created this sketch for a Google contest, which landed him in a national finalist spot.

COURTESY OF DOODLE 4 GOOGLE WEBSITE

Home give away

Couple who lost home in flood get key to new house

A couple who lost their home during a flood that engulfed their southern Alberta community last June have been handed keys to new digs.

Calgary country singer Jason Hastie and his wife, Gina, decided last month to give away their old home to someone in need and advertised on Kijiji.

They received thousands of replies, but in the end decided on Dave and Verna Roberts from High River.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Busted

Arrests made in GHB seizure

More than five litres of gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) was seized in Edmonton on Feb. 20, valued at more than \$5,500.

The drug was stored in two-litre pop bottles and was seized through a search warrant executed by Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT).

Four people have been arrested. METRO



Justin Bieber trades swagger for stagger

In this Jan. 23 video frame grab released by the Miami Beach Police Department, singer Justin Bieber is shown walking unsteadily during a sobriety test at a police station in Miami Beach, Fla. The Miami-Dade county prosecutors released about 10 hours of video Wednesday. MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPT./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Khadr a minimal threat: Ombudsman

Classification. Prison authorities urged to take into account evidence that Canadian former Guantanamo detainee has no more terrorist ties

Canadian correctional authorities have unfairly classified former Guantanamo detainee Omar Khadr even though they lowered his risk rating from maximum to medium security, the federal prisons ombuds-

man complains.

In a letter obtained by The Canadian Press, the Office of the Correctional Investigator urges prison authorities to take into account evidence that Khadr poses minimal threat and should be classified as such.

"(Correctional Service of Canada) officials also note that there is no evidence Mr. Khadr has maintained an association with any terrorist organization," the letter to CSC's senior deputy commissioner states.

The letter this month by Ivan Zinger, executive director of the independent Office of

the Correctional Investigator, is the office's third such complaint since Khadr returned to Canada in 2012 to serve out the rest of an eight-year sentence for war crimes.

Corrections recently reclassified Khadr, 27, and transferred him from the maximum-security Edmonton Institution to the medium-security Bowden Institution in Innisfail, Alta.

But the ombudsman argues that doesn't go far enough, given that Khadr pleaded guilty in October 2010 to crimes he committed in Afghanistan as a 15-year-old. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Arizona anti-gay bill vetoed

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer has vetoed a bill that set off a national debate over gay rights, religion and discrimination.

She announced the veto Wednesday after holding private meetings with opponents and proponents.

The bill backed by Republicans in the state Legislature was designed to give added protection from lawsuits to people who assert their reli-

gious beliefs in refusing service to gays.

Opponents called it an open attack on gays that invited discrimination.

The bill thrust Arizona into the national spotlight last week after both chambers of the Legislature approved it.

The state faced blistering criticism from major corporations and political leaders from both major parties.

The bill allowed any business, church or person to cite the law as a defence in any action brought by the government or individual claiming discrimination. Supporters call the bill a slight tweak to the state's existing religious freedom law. Arizona does not extend civil-rights protections to people based on sexual orientation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ukraine's protest leaders pick top lawmaker for PM

Coffers to fill. The new leader will be walking into a country rife with financial problems

Leaders of Ukraine's protest movement on Wednesday proposed a top legislator as the country's next prime minister, while Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered major military exercises just across the border in a show of force and apparent displeasure over the country's new direction.

The new government, which is expected to be formally approved by parliament Thursday, will face the hugely complicated task of restoring stability in a country that is deeply divided politically and

on the verge of financial collapse. The country's pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich, fled the capital over the weekend.

At Kyiv's Independence Square, the heart of the protest movement against Yanukovich, the interim leaders who seized control after he fled proposed Arseniy Yatsenyuk as the country's new prime minister.

Yatsenyuk, 39, is a millionaire former banker who served as economy minister, foreign minister and parliamentary speaker before Yanukovich took office in 2010. Widely viewed as a technocratic reformer, he appears to enjoy the support of the U.S.

The top U.S. diplomat for Europe, Victoria Nuland, was

overheard discussing Yatsenyuk and other Ukrainian opposition figures in a bugged phone call that was leaked, saying "I think Yats is the guy who's got the economic experience, the governing experience."

If confirmed, one of the first jobs for Yatsenyuk and other members of his new Cabinet will be seeking outside financial help from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. Economists say Ukraine is close to financial collapse, with its currency under pressure and its treasury almost empty. The acting finance minister has said Ukraine will need \$35 billion in bailout loans to get through the next two years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Palestinians pray over recovered body

Palestinians pray during the funeral of Sami Bsharat, a Palestinian militant who was killed in operation by the Israeli army in 2003, in Tamoun village near Jenin city in the West Bank on Wednesday. Recently Israel has been returning the bodies of dead Palestinian militants to their families for burial.

NASSER ISHTAYEH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Market Minute

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GOLD
\$1,328 US (-\$14.70)

Natural gas: \$4.53 US (-\$0.13)
Dow Jones: 16,198.41 (+18.75)

Expected more?

Target Canada loses almost \$1B since March open

Canada's lukewarm reception last year to Target's first expansion outside the U.S. contributed to a nearly \$1 billion loss for the discount retailer. Target Corp. reported Wednesday its Canadian segment had a \$329 million US loss before interest and tax items in the fourth quarter ended Feb. 1. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

\$7M. A penny forgotten is a penny made for the feds

When it comes to balancing the country's books, it's the equivalent of finding loose change under a couch cushion.

But each penny surely counts for a Conservative government desperate to press every bit of cash into paying down the deficit.

Federal coffers got a \$7-million top-up over the last eight years, all without a single tax being raised or any spending being cut.

So what's behind this modest windfall? Long-forgotten bank accounts. If a bank balance goes untouched for 10 years and no one can find the account owner, the money is transferred to the



Penny pinching: Feds get big boost from forgotten bank accounts.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bank of Canada.

The central bank holds on to amounts of less than \$1,000 for another 30 years, while it keeps amounts above \$1,000 for 100 years.

If no one steps forward to claim the money after all that time, the money is transferred to the Receiver General and goes into the consolidated revenue fund. The government can use that money as it sees fit.

Spreadsheet data from the Bank of Canada, released to The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act, offers a glimpse at the sources of this unlikely manna.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Heads bowed, hands out: Ukraine seeks bailout

A woman walks past a local bank set on fire in Kyiv's Independence Square, the epicentre of the country's current unrest in Ukraine, Tuesday. Ukraine needs money, and fast. But bailing out the country will not be as easy as simply writing a big cheque. Ukraine has already burned the main international financial rescuer, the International Monetary Fund, by failing to keep to the terms of earlier bailouts from 2008 and 2010. Now it needs help again, and its economic and financial problems are worse than before. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Scary tales from Alberta's oilsands

Keystone. U.S. senators trot out anecdotal stories in bid to get Obama to reject contentious pipeline

Anti-Keystone XL senator

"Health miseries follow tar sands from extraction, to transport, to refining, to waste disposal."

Barbara Boxer, chair of the Senate environment committee

interest stories might influence the Obama administration as it prepares its final decision on the Keystone XL pipeline.

One of the speakers at the event was John O'Connor, an Alberta doctor.

He first went public in 2006 with concerns about what he considered to be elevated cancer rates around Fort Chipewyan, Alta.

Many of the 1,200 residents

Horror stories about the Alberta oilsands' impact on human health are being shared in Washington, D.C.

A pair of anti-Keystone XL senators invited witnesses Wednesday to provide anecdotes about the effect on people near sites where the oil is extracted, transported and refined.

They hope these human

believe their proximity to oilsands development and major forestry mills in Fort McMurray have led to contamination of water and wildlife and a higher rate of cancer and other illnesses.

The event organizer said she would send a letter to her longtime colleague in the Senate Democratic caucus, current Secretary of State John Kerry, asking him to consider human

health as he prepares a recommendation to U.S. President Barack Obama.

"I have shown you, or at least I have told you, how health miseries follow the tar sands," said Barbara Boxer, the chair of the Senate environment committee, at a news conference.

Boxer said the health aspect has been overlooked in the discussion and was disappointingly absent in the State Department's recent environmental report, which predicted no significant effect on carbon pollution whether or not the pipeline is built.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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HOW TO SCORE A DATE

There was a time when online dating was an embarrassing ordeal, but now it's so commonplace that you'd be an idiot not to have an online profile.

Sure, you might have a loving spouse and a beautiful child, but you haven't truly lived until you've experienced the thrill of a suitor who eyes your 1,500-word profile, feels a moment of inspiration and writes, "Hey."

I spent so many years on dating sites that it might be the Stockholm Syndrome talking, but I really came to enjoy the myriad of ways people misspelled even the simplest English words. "Beautyfull girl with nothing too loose lokking for someone spatial!"

With enough hours online to merit a Malcolm Gladwell reference, a friend of mine recently asked me to offer advice about her profile. I was honoured. In reply, I've written this can't-miss list of online dating tips that will have her — and



HE SAYS

John Mazerolle

metronews.ca

your — inbox filled with so many yo's and sup's that the NSA won't have the resources to keep up.

Love Bytes: A Guide To 'Electronic Dating'

- Your profile name, or handle, should include your full name and address to speed things along.
- Next comes the tagline. Reel in potential suitors with so-called "clickbait" headlines, like "You Won't Believe What Happened To The Last Guy I Dated."
- Never lie, unless you're older or heavier than you want to say you are, in which case go to town.
- Ask a compelling question to prompt more meaningful messages. "If God loves us why must people suffer?" and "Are gravitons fundamental in string theory?" are both great conversation starters.
- Be specific. Wrong: I'm quirky and fun. Right: I am the mayor of Toronto.
- Be sure to list all the things you DON'T want, especially

freaks, flakes and game-players, in angry detail. Ranting about previous partners with absolutely no prompting lets people know you mean business. It's no different than when you apply for a new job and your cover letter says, "I'm a good worker, so you'd better not be a lame company or I walk."

- Be sure to pepper the profile with LOLs. Besides their inherent aura of intelligence and charm, the mental image of you laughing at each sentence you write as you sit alone with your laptop is irresistible.
- Taking a selfie in your bathroom mirror shows off your body and your bathroom, which is an efficient way to convey two important pieces of information.
- Big group shots with friends are great, because it shows there is a Plan B, C and D.

And that's my advice. I hope you found it helpful. One last word if you're an older person who is still afraid of technology: Learn to embrace computers and smartphones for your dating needs. Otherwise, you'll be dating yourself.

ZOOM

Artist bends body into an animal

At first glance it looks like a giraffe, but a closer inspection reveals the body of a gymnast contorting herself into the shape of the exotic animal. Beth Sykes, 20, from Featherstone, Yorkshire, in north England, says it was a "spur of the moment" decision to transform her body into that of the long-necked creature. **METRO**

The gymnast

"We just thought one day that it would be cool to paint me as a giraffe. Then finally we had some time and decided to do it. It took six hours of painting but it was worth it."

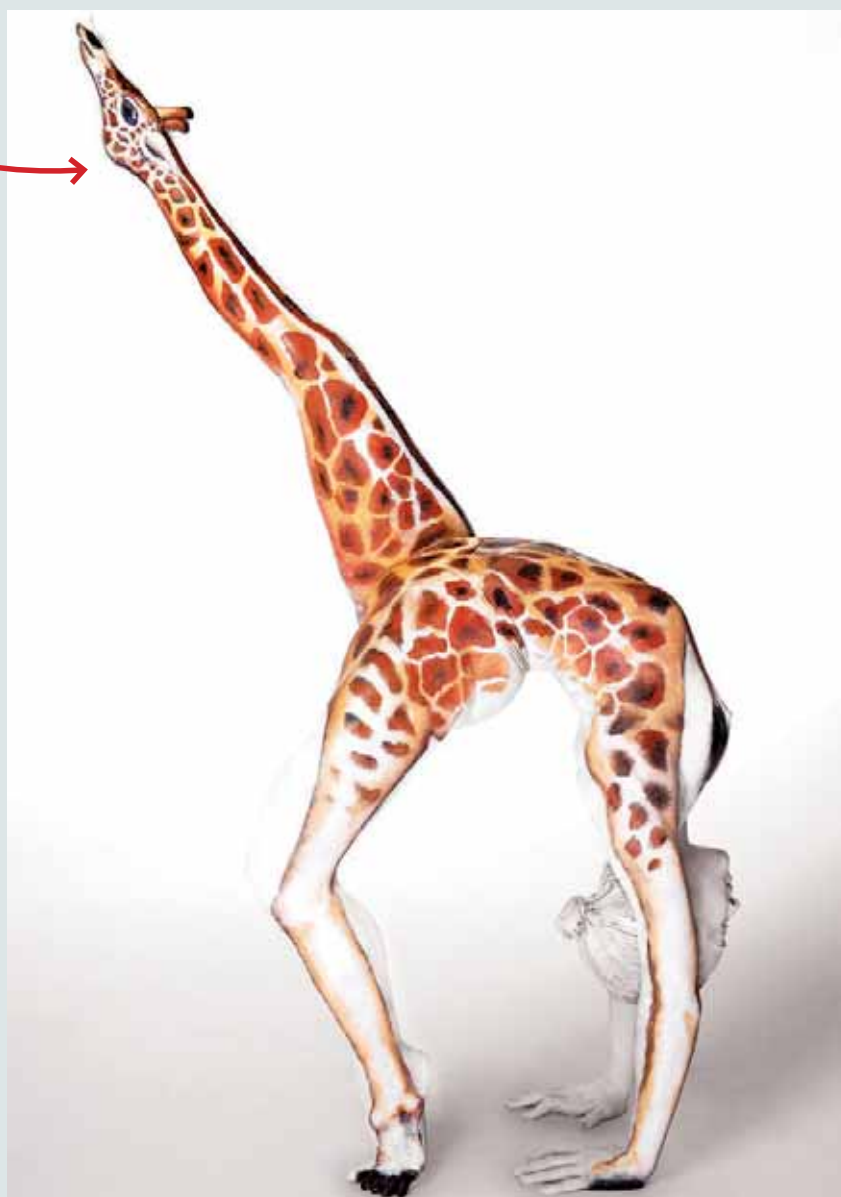
Contortionist Beth Sykes teamed up with her friend and body art painter Emma Fay to produce her giraffe-like look.

All paint, apart from the ears

Fay the artist painted the head of the giraffe on one of Sykes' feet, and hooves on the other foot and one hand.

"The only bit that wasn't my body was the giraffe's ears — we made them out of a foam yoga mat," added Sykes.

METRO



JONATHAN MACAULEY/ROSS PARRY AGENCY

Clickbait



DYLAN ROBERTSON
Metro Online

Worried about how loud sounds affect your health? Perhaps you're curious how noisy your neighbours really are. Your smartphone can be used as a decibel meter thanks to these free apps.

Decibel 10th:

This app includes a graph similar to a heart-rate monitor. It also tells you what your current sound environment is comparable to, like a hushed conversation or a plane taking off. A similar Android app is Sound Meter.

Decibels:

A camera comes with this app, allowing you to capture a photo along with the volume level at the time.

Decibel Ultra:

The two meters in this app measure both ambient sound and incoming noises. A number of sophisticated features allow you to calibrate the app's precision.



CONTRIBUTED

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Zuckerberg wants to give the whole world free Internet access hoping they will invest. Is it a good idea?

@auditorydamage: I'm sure this totally won't end up concentrating even more power in FB, which totally won't be abused at all.

@Canucklehead_ca: Good idea? No. GREATEST IDEA! If you're unable to look at cat pictures & argue with



strangers, well ... that ain't living.

@ctmwyn: reducing the technology barrier can't be bad, unless users are forced to sell their personal information before given access.

@cableknitdragon: No because the last thing the internet needs is more facebook.

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MODELS



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SCENE 2

Setting your skirt on fire

Arts festival. Forget about burning your bra! SkirtsAfire celebrates women in performing arts



JENNIFER LARAWAY
Jennifer Laraway
edmonton@metronews.ca

SkirtsAfire Arts Festival is all about celebrating the feminine touch that has graced Edmonton's art scene.

When Annette Loiselle came across a Professional Arts Coalition theatre report, she noticed some interesting discrepancies in the performing arts world.

The report showed that while most audiences and students enrolled in performing arts programs are women, an overwhelming majority of coveted positions such as directors and playwrights go to men.

Instead of fighting the statistics, Loiselle got to thinking about what she could do to make a difference in opening up the performing arts world to include more opportunities for women.

As a founding member of the Freewill Shakespeare



The Fortrelles are set to perform at this year's SkirtsAfire Festival on March 8. CONTRIBUTED/SKIRTSAFIRE

Where to burn your skirt

- SkirtsAfire takes place March 6-9 in venues across Alberta Avenue
- Tickets are by donation at the door
- For more info, visit skirtsafire.wordpress.com

company 25 years ago, Loiselle knows a thing or two about creating an event and earning publicity.

She says, "I remember from my Freewill Shakespeare days that the second we went from a company to a festival, we took off."

With that, Loiselle's idea for SkirtsAfire was ignited. But, given her experience, she also knew creating a new festival wasn't going to be easy.

Her strategy for promoting the annual event started with bringing in some of the city's most influential women to kick things off, with Culture Minister Heather Klimchuk, city hall first lady Sarah Chan and former civic first lady Lynn Mandel attending the festivities.

"Our first year, we had 80 artists and this year we're nearly 90," she says.

"Edmonton loves its festi-

vals. So when I first had this idea, I got together some actor colleagues and discovered we needed a festival rather than another theatre company. We have a lot of theatre companies in town, including a women's company.

"So, we made this event multi-disciplinary and there is music, theatre, dance, visual shows and galleries," says Loiselle.

Already looking ahead,

Loiselle has her sights set even higher. "Our goal is to still do play development and eventually produce a play each season. For our third year, next year, we are going to do that theatre aspect with a one-woman show to make that happen.

"It took a couple years to make that happen — there's a lot more funding involved but we got it and we are going to make it happen."

visit metronews.ca

Is Annie Clark afraid of the dark?



Annie Clark spends a lot of time acting against herself in the aptly named film *Solo*. CONTRIBUTED

Solo. Toronto actress takes her first leading role in a freaky twist on the summer camp horror genre

ADAM
NAYMAN
scene@metronews.ca

"I'm a city girl," says Annie Clark, and she plays one in *Solo*, a low-budget but high-efficiency Canadian horror movie about a young woman stranded on an island somewhere in the wilds of Ontario.

Clark's character, a troubled teenager named Gillian, is reluctantly taking part in an initiation exercise where new camp counselors have to spend two nights roughing it in the wilderness; as the film goes on, it becomes increasingly clear that she's far from alone. "I was actually going to become a camp counselor," says the 21-year-old Toronto native.

"But when I got to the point where I really had to do a solo, I was terrified. I quit camp before I had to do it, but (with this movie) I had to

sort of do it anyway."

As its title suggests, *Solo* is a pretty focused showcase for its leading lady, who spends a lot of her screen time acting in a vacuum. To say more about the other characters would be a spoiler, but there aren't very many of them.

"When I first started reading it, I thought Gillian was going to die in the first few minutes," laughs Clark, who is branching into feature film work after a stint on *Degrassi: The Next Generation*.

"I didn't know what kind of horror movie it was going to be. I'd read plenty of head-cheerleader parts with shower murder scenes, and I don't really like that."

Clark is still a relative newcomer, but she's already familiar enough with the business to know that it's important for a young actress to make discerning choices when it comes to roles.

"I want to do things I feel strongly about rather than just taking what I can get." She says that she's tried to keep from getting pigeonholed after *Degrassi*, but also that the show was a great initiation into the industry.

Quoted

"I did my own stunts. I had bruises all over the place, but I was proud of them."

Annie Clark

"It opened up a lot of doors for me. It was like four years of non-stop learning. I feel like I could have gotten a degree from that: a degree in *Degrassi*."

Solo is a small movie, but with its stripped-down premise and skillfully engineered scares, it's the sort of indie that's bound to travel: Clark says a friend in Costa Rica sent her a photo of a bootlegged DVD.

And despite her earlier aversion to intense camping experiences, she says that shooting the movie in Muskoka was a down-and-dirty blast.

"I did my own stunts," she reports of the shoot, which also required the crew to improvise bathing routines in the absence of showers on the off-the-grid campsite. "I had bruises all over the place, but I was proud of them."

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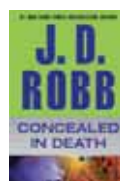
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Weeks on List: 4



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Weeks on List: 2

This Week

Weeks on List

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3. THE INVENTION OF WINGS Sue Monk Kidd | 8 |
| 4. DEADLINE Sandra Brown | 5 |
| 5. THE DEMONOLOGIST Andrew Pyper | 7 |
| 6. LIFE AFTER LIFE Kate Atkinson | 8 |
| 7. MY JOURNEY Olivia Chow | 6 |
| 8. PRIVATE L.A. James Patterson | 3 |
| 9. THE DEAD IN THEIR VAULTED ARCHES Alan Bradley | 7 |
| 10. THE TRIPLE PACKAGE Amy Chua | 4 |
| ★ 11. THE MUSEUM OF EXTRAORDINARY THINGS Alice Hoffman | 1 |
| 12. THE AWESOME GUIDE TO LIFE Jason Ellis | 2 |
| 13. CONFESSIONS OF A WILD CHILD Jackie Collins | 4 |
| 14. ALL JOY AND NO FUN Jennifer Senior | 5 |
| 15. THE MOMSHIFT Reva Seth | 3 |
| 16. THE POUND A DAY DIET Rocco Dispirito | 8 |
| 17. THE START HERE DIET Tosca Reno | 8 |
| ★ 18. THE FUTURE OF THE MIND Michio Kaku | 1 |
| ★ 19. THE CHASE Janet Evanovich | 1 |
| ★ 20. THE UNDEAD POOL Kim Harrison | 1 |

Combined Fiction and Non-Fiction Bestsellers for the week, ending March 3rd

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Neda Kalantar, 22, Vancouver

Which past contestants are you most like?

Peter (Brown) in the way he played the game. It didn't work out for him in the end because he made a few mistakes, but I like the fact that he made a really strong alliance with Alec (Beall). I also like how Gary (Levy) had fun in the game. He didn't take anything too seriously.

Are you worried about what your parents may see and think?

I don't think so. I'm really close with my mom and she knows pretty much everything about me so I'm not too scared of that. She'll just shake her head at me. Hopefully I'm not

going to do anything too embarrassing.

What will you do with the money if you win?

I would love to pay off my debts and my mom's debt. It would be awesome to have a down payment for a house.

What's your most unlikeable character trait?

My bluntness. I love that about myself but I know it's something that could get me in a lot of trouble. My filter is a little broken. I tend to over think every scenario.



5

Big Brother house guests

If you thought contestants on the first season of Big Brother Canada brought the drama, get ready for drama on crack in Season 2. We asked five of them to reveal what Canadians can expect when the show premieres March 5 at 9 p.m. ET on Slice.

MAE BOWRING
for Metro Canada



Kyle Shore, 24, Porters Lake, Nova Scotia

How did you react when you found out you were selected?

For once in my life I was speechless. It's like if you're with a girl and her dad walks in and you just freeze like a deer in headlights. That was the feeling.

What's the one word you'd use to describe yourself.

Outgoing, because I love

to party. I have to be social and in the scene. I'll try anything once.

What do you do back home?

Personal trainer. I'm waiting to get into either policing or the military. I can't be a desk jockey. I've got to keep moving.

You're outspoken. Are you worried about offending people?

I've done university speeches where I've had to watch my slang and s— like that.

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Factor, CIBC, Manulife, Winnipeg, iHeartRadio, 104.1, 94.1, 102.1, 107.1, 103.1, 105.1, 106.1, 108.1, 109.1, 110.1, 111.1, 112.1, 113.1, 114.1, 115.1, 116.1, 117.1, 118.1, 119.1, 120.1, 121.1, 122.1, 123.1, 124.1, 125.1, 126.1, 127.1, 128.1, 129.1, 130.1, 131.1, 132.1, 133.1, 134.1, 135.1, 136.1, 137.1, 138.1, 139.1, 140.1, 141.1, 142.1, 143.1, 144.1, 145.1, 146.1, 147.1, 148.1, 149.1, 150.1, 151.1, 152.1, 153.1, 154.1, 155.1, 156.1, 157.1, 158.1, 159.1, 160.1, 161.1, 162.1, 163.1, 164.1, 165.1, 166.1, 167.1, 168.1, 169.1, 170.1, 171.1, 172.1, 173.1, 174.1, 175.1, 176.1, 177.1, 178.1, 179.1, 180.1, 181.1, 182.1, 183.1, 184.1, 185.1, 186.1, 187.1, 188.1, 189.1, 190.1, 191.1, 192.1, 193.1, 194.1, 195.1, 196.1, 197.1, 198.1, 199.1, 200.1, 201.1, 202.1, 203.1, 204.1, 205.1, 206.1, 207.1, 208.1, 209.1, 210.1, 211.1, 212.1, 213.1, 214.1, 215.1, 216.1, 217.1, 218.1, 219.1, 220.1, 221.1, 222.1, 223.1, 224.1, 225.1, 226.1, 227.1, 228.1, 229.1, 230.1, 231.1, 232.1, 233.1, 234.1, 235.1, 236.1, 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Rachelle Diamond, 20, Edmonton

What were you doing before the show?

I'm in my third year of psychology at the University of Alberta. I hope to get my PhD and become a marriage and family counsellor.

Use one word to describe yourself.

Loud. I tend to get loud when in a group because I'm trying to get my point across. I'm expressive and always say what's on my mind.

What character trait might get you into trouble on the show?

I'm not very good at listening to people. I interrupt people, but I don't mean to. That could be an issue because it's important for people to feel heard.

Which past contestants do you identify with the most?

I'm a mix between Jillian (MacLaughlin) and Talla (Rejaei). Jillian's calm and collected and Talla's crazy. I'm in the middle.



Arlie Shaban, 25, Stouffville, Ont.

Which past contestants are you most like?

Strategically, I would play like Emmett (Blois) did. His was pretty flawless. Personality-wise, I'll be like Aneal (Ramkissoon). I liked his mindset about the game. He didn't have enough clout in the house to actually do what he wanted to but he had a good understanding of what was going on.

What's your strategy?

All of the past players say you can't plan too far ahead. I'm going to go in there and be the guy that everyone likes. I'm going to be funny, tell some stories, cook some great meals and do the cleaning. I want people to want to keep me around.

I can tell you're confident about your chances

Strategically, I'll be running the show. I think I'll get everyone to do exactly what I want them to do in a way that they don't know that I'm the one in charge.

What happens if you win?

The experience, to me, is more life-changing than the money. I would just do the same thing I'm doing now with my life. I'd probably take my friends and family on a nice vacation. I'm not going to blow smoke about donating 50 per cent to charity. Sure I'll be a nice guy with the money but it will be with the people who are close to me.



Anick Gervais, 28, Sudbury, Ont.

What did you do before Big Brother Canada?

I'm a business development specialist. It's a fancy word for sales person for a mining company. I might not have a job when I go back. I'm pretty awesome at what I do, so I'm not too worried.

Any other hobbies?

I'm a Reiki master so I work with energies. I'm also studying reflexology, so I give a mean foot massage.

So you'll use that to your advantage?

If somebody's stressed out and HOH (head of household) then I'll be like, 'Hey I'll give you a session if you don't nominate me (for eviction)'.

I'll also use my bartering skills.

Are you worried about how you'll be portrayed on the show?

People always expect the unexpected with me so anything I do, people won't be surprised. Once I met a guy in a bar and less than a month later I lived in Scotland. I just pack up and go. I'm a bit of a gypsy.



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Mayim Bialik still boosting breastfeeding

Mayim Bialik may be done nursing her two sons, but she's still more than happy to defend the practice of breastfeeding in public. "I think anywhere you give a bottle, you breastfeed. I would try and be absolutely respectful and conscious of the community I was in, but I don't believe you need to cover up a baby eating anymore than you need to cover up a baby drinking a bottle," the *Big Bang Theory* star tells the Huffington Post.



Mayim Bialik



Katy Perry and John Mayer ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

They're in, then they're out

So much for the engagement rumours. Katy Perry and John Mayer have reportedly split up once again, according to Radar Online. The couple's second go at romance — after an earlier breakup — seemed to be going well, with each being very forthcoming in

interviews about their feelings for each other. They even duetted on Mayer's "Who You Love," and Perry was spotted recently with a diamond on her finger than many thought signalled impending marriage. But it was reportedly Perry herself who initiated the split.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Lawrence looks at year-long vacation

MELINDA TAUB

Metro World News in New York

Have we loved Jennifer Lawrence so hard that we broke her?

Despite — or because of — our affection, the world's most adored actress is planning to take a lengthy hiatus from acting, according to Harvey Weinstein. "She's going to have a long break for a year where she won't do anything. It's been non-stop for her and she deserves a rest," Weinstein, who produced *Silver Linings Playbook*, told the U.K.'s *The Sun*.

Why does Jennifer need a rest from being a movie star? Apparently, carrying two major movie franchises while also starring in a steady stream of Oscar bait (not to mention being relentlessly charming in interviews) can wear on a person. "Jennifer is too nice and will do people favours and agrees to do a movie like *American Hustle* when she could have had a rest," Weinstein said. "She signed on to do *Hunger Games* when she was young and wouldn't have realized how much it would dominate her life. But she's a professional and always will be."

Well, OK. I guess she can take a break, as long as she comes back — and assigns a substitute to make fun of Sarah Jessica Parker's hats in her stead.

Twitter



@ElizabethHurley

Just joined a gym for the first time in 20 years. About to have a fitness assessment. Gulp.



@SarahKSilverman

My morals aren't the same as your morals



@AlbertBrooks

I hope Netflix never opens a restaurant



Robin Thicke

Robin in Thicke trouble with his fans

Robin Thicke may be breaking up with his fans along with wife Paula Patton. The Blurred Lines singer cancelled yet another show on his U.S. tour earlier this week, the third consecutive show to be scrapped. "Due to unforeseen circumstances, Robin Thicke will postpone his performance at Harrah's Cherokee," the North Carolina casino announced on its

website. "This concert will be rescheduled and the new date announced as soon as possible." Thicke also bowed out of shows last week in Atlanta and Orlando, citing vocal problems. "I never want to let down my fans, but I have unfortunately lost my voice and cannot perform," said Thicke, who announced on Monday that he and Patton are separating. If this keeps up, the Boston University students who started a petition to cancel Thicke's March 4 concert there — on complaints of his "misogynist music" — might not have anything to worry about.

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Kloss is now in session: We want those moves like Karlie

She walks the walk...

And talks runway season, that trademark stride and her inner hopeless romantic

RICHARD PECKETT

Metro World News

Karlie Kloss is one of those rarefied models that women obsess over and men lust after. Now her stock is so high rumour has it the American-born model can only be booked for shows through special arrangement.

You've got the most confident walk in the business. Do you find being on the runway empowering?

I do. I really enjoy being on the runway. It's a very different part of my job compared to photo shoots. It's a performance similar to the ballet performances that I remember from growing up, so I enjoy runway shows because of that.

How did ballet prepare you for the modeling industry?

Ballet was the best training I could have had for a modeling career. It teaches movement, gracefulness and how to express emotion. Telling a story through movement is very important in a modeling career.

Valentine's Day has re-



Karlie Kloss rapidly became a runway mainstay after being discovered in 2005 at age 13. HANDOUT

cently come and gone. Did you buy into it or are you a cynic?

Well I do like Valentine's

Day. I like any excuse to show some warmth and love. I think that goes for not just your boyfriend or girlfriend but it's also an



Karlie's career is on pointe

"Ballet was the best training I could have had for a modeling career."

Karlie Kloss

excuse to write a love note to your friends, your mom, anyone.

Are you a romantic?

I am. I am a romantic. Yeah, it's also a good holiday for good chocolate.

What's the cheesiest chat-up line you've received?

Hmm, cheesiest chat-up line: "Did it hurt? Did it hurt, angel, when you fell from heaven?" It's an automatic game over.

You're photographed in lingerie a great deal — a look that men's magazines like to perpetuate as real-life. Is this the case?

No, I'm into sweatpants and my boyfriend's T-shirt. I like to be totally boring and watch [American] football, there's no fancy lingerie. But on a special occasion it's always fun to get dressed up and that's why there's some good stuff here at Victoria's Secret.

Good plug.

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Kara Lane

Age: 23

Occupation:
Front woman of
angsty pop band

What she's wearing
Doc Martens, camo pants

from Value Village, Cowichan sweater stolen from my friend's boyfriend and a head chain from Emidesh.

Her inspiration
Xena, the warrior princess.

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Trends Report

Retro fashion and beauty is seeing a revival this spring, inspiring the latest looks on both fashion runways and red carpets. Go online to Trends Report to see how you can get the look that singer Taylor Swift has mastered.



• Online. Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetrolreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

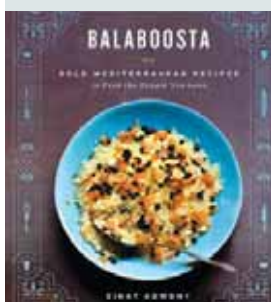
Taylor Swift images from Getty Images

3 LIFE

Flawlessly flavoured from the inside out

Cookbook of the Week

A mixture of cultures and tastes



As a mother, wife and chef who runs three busy New York City restaurants, Einat Admony knows about being a New Age “balaboosta” (Yiddish for “perfect housewife”). It makes sense then that her cookbook shares the same name.

Balaboosta offers 140 recipes that blend Admony’s mixed Israeli heritage (Yemenite, Persian) with the Mediterranean palate she developed working in New York City.

Among the dishes in the book are: Spicy Chicken Tagine, Fenugreek Fried Bread, Yemenite Oxtail Soup and more. **METRO**

“This is the classic Mediterranean preparation for fish, without all the fancy filleting, searing, steaming, or curing,” writes Einat Admony in her book *Balaboosta: Bold Mediterranean Recipes to Feed the People You Love*.

“The key is to layer the ingredients inside the fish, instead of on top, so that the flavour permeates every last ounce of the meat.”

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. Pat the skin dry on the branzino with a few paper towels. Stuff the cavity of each fish with one sprig each of thyme and rosemary, one garlic clove, and two slices of lemon. Place the fish on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and drizzle with olive oil.

3. Roast in the oven until

Ingredients

- Four 1 1/4-lb whole branzino, gutted and cleaned
- 4 fresh thyme sprigs
- 4 fresh rosemary sprigs
- 4 garlic cloves
- 1 lemon, sliced into 8 rounds
- Olive oil

Yogurt Dill Sauce

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

cooked all the way through, about 30 minutes.

4. Meanwhile, make the yogurt dill sauce: Combine the yogurt, garlic, lemon juice, and salt in a blender. Puree until smooth, then very slowly add the olive oil in a thin stream. Scrape the yogurt mixture into a bowl and stir in the chopped dill. The sauce can be made ahead of time and kept in an airtight container in the refrigerator until ready to use.

5. Serve each fish with the yogurt dill sauce.

RECIPES EXCERPTED FROM *BALABOOSTA* BY EINAT ADMONY (ARTISAN BOOKS). COPYRIGHT (C) 2013.



This recipe serves four. BOOK IMAGES, QUENTIN BACON



This recipe serves six to eight people.

Side. Tangy Tabbouleh

1. Pour enough hot water over the bulgur just to cover it and soak for 10 minutes. The bulgur will absorb most of the water, and it should have a slight crunch when you bite into one of the grains.

Ingredients

- 1 cup medium bulgur
- 1 cup each fresh parsley and cilantro, finely chopped
- 4 scallions, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh mint, finely chopped
- 1 cup tomatoes, diced

2. Meanwhile, toss together the remaining ingredients in a very large bowl. Add the bulgur and mix thoroughly. Allow the salad to soak in all the wonderful tangy flavours for 30 minutes before serving.

- Grated zest of 2 lemons
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp kosher salt
- Pinch of freshly ground black pepper

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Modernist Cuisine At Home: Lite Version (iPad, iPhone; free)



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It’s avant-garde cooking through science. Modernist Cuisine is normally a pricey \$70 book, but this free three-course meal sampler will explain its concepts with slow-cooked chicken

and pressure-cooked quinoa salad. Did I mention it’s free?



Timber! Turn '70s wood panelling into walls you could totally fall for

Camouflage. Update the textured look with paint treatments or exaggerate it with reclaimed wood

The '70s may be alive and well in homes with wood panelled interior walls, but home owners who want to update the once trendy treatment may find the task daunting.

Kyla Bidgood, a Victoria registered interior designer, says a coat of paint can modernize wood walls.

"Even crisp white camouflage wood panelling nicely, and adds a bit of texture to the space," says Bidgood.

"Layering things on top of it like art and wall pieces is another great way to minimize the impact of bad wood panelling," she says.

"I think the thing that became overwhelming in the old spaces was all the dramatic vertical wood grain and if you paint the wood panelling out then you lose that pattern but you keep the texture."

When wood panelling was at its most popular it seemed as if everyone's basement featured it, and Bidgood says because of its overuse homeowners associate it with a particular style from a

Going against the grain

Paint is an effective way to tackle a dated panelled wall, and there are ways to use the vertical lines of the panelling to create an interesting wall feature.

previous era.

Rob Everitt, principal and owner of Winnipeg's Everitt Design Associates, says modern design trends favour cleaner and minimal looks.

"We just don't like the vertical lines," he says. "It is really distracting and it takes away from art on the wall and all kinds of things."

"People can't stand the darkness of the wood because it closes in the room, and then people start painting it and it takes on a beachy look, which can look quite nice. But you aren't going to get a sophisticated look when you paint wood panelling."

Like Bidgood, Everitt says paint is an effective way to tackle a dated panelled wall, and says there are ways to use the vertical lines of the panelling to create an interesting wall feature.

"If you want to have some fun with it you could paint some stripes with it," he says. "You could follow the lines



Reclaimed timber in varying depths and sizes is painted out in bright colours as a fireplace feature.

COURTESY SARAH MACNEIL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hint of wood looks good on wallpaper



Interior designer Kyla Bidgood has used wood in a variety of her recent projects. In one home she used a wood-grained wallpaper.

- "It's not using wood, but it is an ode to the old '70s wood panelling but done using wallpaper."

and paint every second or third one, so it's not candy striped, doing something subtle."

Homeowners can eliminate the grooves and reveals of the panelling by filling them or, alternatively, create more pronounced lines.

"Homeowners could take what is called a baton, which is a small piece of wood, and cover over the reveals and the little seams and make it more exaggerated, which can become a special detail," says Everitt.

Bidgood says she is now using wood to add texture.

"It is coming back in a major but different way now and we're seeing it all over the

place, from restaurants to tech offices and residences, but it's more of a reclaimed wood panelling, not the typical kind of wood panelling like we remember from grandma's basement," she says.

According to Bidgood, the wood being used in modern homes is often painted, which reduces the impact of the wood grain but maintains the texture of the wood or minimal grain. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Wood, wood everywhere

Plywood is a cheap material and covering floors, walls and ceiling with it, as this West coast cafe did, is a simple and inexpensive way to achieve an industrial modern look.



Boards mount up at work

Black painted walls with mounted 1x6 fir boards covering the outside of a meeting room add texture at a tech office in Victoria, B.C.



PHOTOS: COURTESY JEN STEELE / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Building on memories of grandma's basement

"We're seeing it all over the place, from restaurants to tech offices and residences, but it's more of a reclaimed wood panelling, not the typical kind of wood panelling like we remember from grandma's basement."

Interior designer Kyla Bidgood

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PARKLAND COUNTY

Thursday, February 27, 2014



Parkland County offers many recreational options, including nine-day-use park sites and trails, lakes for boating, waterskiing and fishing, and community associations. PARKLAND COUNTY PHOTO

Recreation improves quality of life

LUCY
HAINES
For Metro

Recreation in Parkland County has many components including nine-day-use park sites and trails, lakes for boating, skiing and fishing, and community associations — hubs in towns, villages and hamlets that act as a

gathering place for residents to socialize and play.

In this largely rural county, popular lakes like Chickadee offer winter and summer fishing. The same is true at Jackfish Lake and, of course, nearby Lake Wabamun, a magnet for residents and city slickers to enjoy the beach and water activities.

Also focused on water, this time the North Saskatchewan River, the

River Valley Alliance is a project funded by three levels of government, which promotes river access and recreational opportunities among seven municipalities — Parkland, Devon, Edmonton, Sturgeon, Leduc and Strathcona counties, and Fort Saskatchewan, all with an interest in developing riverfront land and, eventually, connecting trails through many of these communities.

Three projects are on tap in the next few years for Parkland County, including

the Prospector's Point day-use park site upgrade, developing a trail east along the river 1.5 kilometres to Edmonton, and development of a five-kilometre trail link to the Devonian Botanic Gardens.

Not all recreation is water-centred, though. Community associations across the county offer playgrounds, outdoor rinks, horseback riding and more, all made possible by volunteers who understand the importance of shared activities among area residents. Social events matter, too, such as bingos,

dances and jamborees in smaller spots like Entwistle, Woodbend, Magnolia and Tomahawk.

"These are quality of life things — volunteers and residents are passionate about their own neck of the woods," said Dave Cross, manager of community and protective services with Parkland County. "Parkland County supports these groups, our staff helps with operations and funding however we can."

The Meridian Sports Park near Stony Plain provides a busy space for baseball

and soccer games or tournaments May to August, with thousands of people coming from throughout the area to take advantage of the facility, concession and ball fields.

Recreation of a more refined sort is offered through the county's municipal art program. In a little more than five years, the county has acquired more than 100 pieces of visual art from county residents — paintings, sculptures, pottery, photos and more — for public display at county facilities and at occasional shows in the region.



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Thinking one step ahead

What is an intelligent community? Parkland County knows.

A few years ago, rather than lament the inadequate high-speed broadband and cell-phone service in rural areas, the county set the forward-thinking goal of providing reliable, reasonably priced, high-speed Internet to 90 per cent or more of its residents. The county also recognized broadband as an essential utility, in the same vein as roads, water, sewer and garbage disposal.

The Smart Parkland Initiative began six years, and thanks to the vision of Parkland council, the county has a CSA-approved network of towers designed, built and operated with a full range of broadband services for cellular phones, public safety radio and private utilities.

"It used to be location, location — now it's capacity, capacity," said Al McCully, program manager for Smart Parkland. "We don't want to be the Internet or cell provider, we're part of the infrastructure. Our objective is to get the service out to the people."

McCully said a key factor is not the technology or towers, but what the infrastructure does for residents and business. The county wants to be globally competitive, so it is encouraging the innovative use of high-speed broadband through workshops for residents, business and local community associations.

"How do we optimize this technology and reach out to all residents?" McCully asked.

Free Wi-Fi has been one answer, with the county offering it at about 10 community halls.

The Smart 21 Intellectual Community Forum recently named Parkland County as one of the Smart 21 Communities worldwide, a recognition that the county is taking unique paths to research and promote the best practices for using high-speed broadband.

LUCY HAINES



Carvel General Store has oodles of vintage charm, plus coffee and tea available on the porch. PARKLAND COUNTY PHOTOS

Adventure land

Tourism. Plenty of activities keep visitors and residents busy throughout the year

LUCY HAINES
For Metro

In the tri-region of Parkland County, the city of Spruce Grove and the town of Stony Plain, it is said that people come for the culture and stay for the adventure. And with so much to see and do, tourism keeps them coming to the region all year long.

Located 20 minutes west of Edmonton, the tri-region has much to offer tourists, including river tubing, sky-diving, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and paintball, as well seasonal festivals, historic downtowns, unique retailers, country stores and more than 30 hand-painted historical murals.

"Our thing really is outdoor adventure," said Tom Koep, manager of economic development and tourism for Parkland County. "Being so close to Edmonton, we offer city dwellers amazing outdoor experiences."

Through a tourism website, the region suggests day trips like the walking trails of Pembina River Provincial Park, and the Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary near Spruce



Parkland County offers many activities for tourists.

Grove, which affords a closer glimpse of feathered wildlife such as loons, ducks, eagles, owls and songbirds.

Cross-country skiers will find trails and loops around Chickacoo Lake, Hasse Lake and the Stony Plain Golf Course. Speaking of golf courses, there are about 15 in the region, "all a golf lover could want" Koep said.

The new Treble Creek Golf Resort near Entwistle offers camping and RV sites, a wandering creek, horseback riding and a top-notch restaurant.

Do you love history and small-town charm? The region has several bed and breakfasts, gift shops and lo-

cal art, plus Carvel General Store, a popular destination about a half-hour from Edmonton. Built in 1918, the store has oodles of vintage charm, plus coffee and tea available on the porch all day long.

The Devonian Botanic Gardens, a 190-acre property just 15 minutes out of the city, is busy with activities every weekend, while the tranquil Japanese Garden hosts many weddings.

And because Parkland County borders rivers on two sides, water activities are front and centre wherever you go, from tubing along the Pembina River, to canoeing, fishing, picnics and more.

Environment. All parties have a common goal

How do you balance landowner and farming rights with ecological issues?

It's a push/pull issue in many rural areas and no different for Parkland County, which believes a healthy and prosperous community includes respect for the environment.

Parkland County has adopted an integrated sustainability plan and an environmental advisory committee, plus initiatives like "greening" buildings, water conservation and rain collection, all part of ongoing efforts to respect the environment.

The Parkland Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) project works with agricultural producers and other rural landowners to help sustain agriculture, wildlife and natural spaces for the benefit of all.

"It's a pilot project — we want to recognize the efforts of landowners and encourage different stewardships," said Gabriel Clarke, sustainability services co-ordinator for Parkland County. "The goal is to increase production of ecological goods and services — clean air, water and ground — and do that by working with

farmers, not against them."

With ALUS, the county covers a portion of costs for projects like establishing native Prairie, pollinator habitat, creation or restoration of wetlands, wildlife-friendly fences, and artificial bird nests. ALUS was founded in the late 1990s by Keystone Agricultural Producers and Delta Waterfowl Foundation, and the entirely volunteer-run program is funded by government, angler and hunter groups and environmental stewardship groups.

Clarke said that while the program is flexible, it does target land that is environmentally sensitive.

"This is a different way to promote conservation on working landscapes, to balance a farmer's ability to make a living with benefits for the community."

Projects can include filling a creek on a property for waterfowl, or making a smooth-top strand on a barbed wire fence to make it easier for wildlife to jump over — even creating exclusion fencing around water bodies or making a shelter belt of trees as a buffer for better soil retention.

LUCY HAINES

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Leisure centre defines local co-operative spirit

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The TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre (TLC) is a jewel in the crown of the tri-municipal region serving Parkland County, Spruce Grove and Stony Plain.

Open since 2002, the \$25-million, cost-shared, multi-purpose facility is meeting the recreational, social and wellness needs of residents, and is a defining example of the co-operation among those who work, live and play in this part of the province.

"We draw people in from nearby Wabamun, Devon and Drayton Valley, so we've set up a cost-sharing for the arena and pools," said Dave Cross, manager of commun-

ity and protective services with Parkland County, whose share is based on user groups within the county's population of a little more than 30,000 people.

Situated in Spruce Grove, the TLC includes a fitness centre, indoor walk/run track, a 10-lane pool and leisure pool with waterslide, plus hot tub and steam room. There are also two NHL-sized arenas, another leisure ice rink, two indoor sports fields, a gym, children's play centre and meeting rooms. Scheduled and drop-in activities run year-round in this well-loved and well-used facility.

The co-operative spirit also extends to the region's emergency services. The central 24-hour Emergency Communications Centre in Parkland County serves as a

dispatch hub for fire and 911 services, including ambulance and RCMP for many neighbouring municipalities.

"We handle 911 calls for a significant central area of the province," Cross said. "Again, we cost-share equipment, and the training is done jointly."

Thanks to another partnership with Stony Plain and Alberta Health Services, a new ambulance facility is in the works near the now-rented station in Parkland County.

A further example of co-operation exists among neighbours Leduc County, Drayton Valley, Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and Parkland County, which are partners delivering provincial government-funded family and community support ser-



The TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre meets the recreational and social needs of local residents. PARKLAND COUNTY PHOTO

vices in the region.

From crisis support to teen mentoring programs, including movie nights,

skateboarding, and such, to helping seniors with their snow shovelling, or just socializing at a tea dance, the

services help keep residents connected, Cross said. "We want to offer residents all the supports they might need."

Economy. County's positive attitude attracts business

Parkland County is open for business in a big way. Located just west of Edmonton along four major highways — 16, 16A, 60 and 43 — the county is a busy corridor for transport to the north, and shipping to Vancouver and points northwest. Compared to industrial land in Edmonton, Nisku and Strathcona County, it also provides an easier highway drive north to Grande Prairie, Jasper and Fort McMurray.

With a CN intermodal yard close by and easy access to Calgary, the location is ideal for any company involved in importing or exporting goods. Add to that some of the lowest non-residential tax rates and lowest start-up costs in the region, and it's no wonder so many are making the move to Parkland County's Acheson Industrial Area.

"Our business activity and positive attitude are a

strength," said Tom Koep, manager of economic development and tourism. "We've been recognized by Alberta Venture magazine the past several years as one of the best places to do business in Alberta."

Parkland County has an active website and seeks out businesses to talk up the Acheson area advantage. A simple online cost calculator gives businesses a straight-

forward look at shipping costs for companies that locate here.

The Acheson Industrial Area is on 16 square miles just west of Edmonton. While 2,300 people were employed in the area in 2005, it has grown to 7,000 workers in about 250 businesses. Companies like Sysco, a \$38-billion dry good and supplier to restaurant and hotel chains, operates a 350,000-square-

foot warehouse in Parkland County. Other companies include Navistar, Powell Canada and Manitoulin Transport.

"In the last eight years, Acheson has issued \$500 million in building permits," Koep said. "In the last three years alone, it has been \$210 million."

Acheson also has an active business association, and the area's emergence as an intelligent community has im-

proved high-speed broadband Internet and cellular service throughout the county, another plus for the bustling business community.

"We have a labour pool of over 70,000 in the tri-region," Koep said. "Many work in Edmonton, but living and working here could save over a half hour of commute time every day. There are savings to every aspect of working in Parkland County." LUCY HAINES



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Oilers open minded on goaltending future

NHL. MacT in no rush to make decision on pair of current backstops

When the Edmonton Oilers return to the ice Thursday for their final 22 games of the season, there will be more questions than answers surrounding their roster.

The Oilers have nine unrestricted free agents to deal with, including four defencemen and both goaltenders. Three other defencemen, including Justin Schultz, are restricted free agents.

Probably the most delicate situation involves goaltenders Ben Scrivens and Ilya Bryzgalov, neither of whom were with the team to start the season. At age 34, Bryzgalov would not appear to be the goalie of the future. That means the coaching staff will likely be taking a hard look over the final six weeks of the season at 27-year-old Scrivens, obtained from the Los Angeles Kings five weeks ago.

Head coach Dallas Eakins said Wednesday both have played well, both get along well and for him it's a great situation.

"You have two goalies who are going to be looking for contracts, I believe they both like



Ilya Bryzgalov and Ben Scrivens can basically consider the final 22 games of the season as an audition for the Oilers' 2014-15 campaign. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

the situation and the opportunity that is here and you want that competition," said Eakins. "You want them to push each other and that's how your team

gets better."

And it isn't just about Scrivens, he said.

"Both guys are unrestricted free agents," he said. "We're looking for goalies. Maybe both of them are going to be part of the solution but it's important for both to go out and play well."

"Bryzgalov has been a No. 1 in the past and I think he still has the potential to do that. Ben's numbers line up. He's a confident kid. He wants

to show the National Hockey League he's ready to be a No. 1."

General manager Craig MacTavish said he was impressed with the play of both goalies in the weeks before the Olympic break and the "simple assumption" is that Scrivens will continue to improve.

"You analyze where Ben is at this time, what his age is, what his skill level is and what his level of opportunity has been," MacTavish said. "There wasn't a

lot of downside to bringing in a guy like Ben and giving him an opportunity he wasn't going to get in LA. He's done an incredibly good job in the six games he's played so far."

Before offering him a long-term contract, however, MacTavish wants to see more of Scrivens who has played only 57 NHL games so far and sports impressive statistics — 1.98 GAA and .937 save percentage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Good to be home

"I like it here. Everyone wants to play in their hometown for sure but it's about what's best for me and my family."

Ben Scrivens, who is 3-3-0 with a 2.01 GAA and .948 save percentage with the Oilers

Hobbling hero. Price suffers lower-body injury

Montreal Canadiens star goaltender Carey Price left the team's morning skate Wednesday with what the club is calling a lower-body injury.

Coach Michel Therrien said Price aggravated the injury while representing Canada at the Sochi Olympics.

"He will not play the next two games and he's day-to-day," Therrien said.

The Canadiens hosted the Detroit Red Wings Wednesday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Carey Price

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sense of accomplishment



"I think everybody feels a sense of pride, but also a

sense of relief knowing you were able to do what everybody expected."

Sidney Crosby returned from Sochi, Russia, with his second Olympic gold medal, this one as the captain of the Canadian team. Crosby returns to normalcy in the NHL with the first-place Penguins, who face a stretch run that features 24 games in 46 days.

Wingin' it. Babcock shifts focus to getting Detroit back into post-season

Mike Babcock loved the Olympics, but now he has another tough task — trying to get the Detroit Red Wings into the NHL playoffs.

"It's about the Red Wings now — that's all over with," said the coach who led Canada to a second straight hockey gold medal at the Sochi Olympics. "We're in a real battle to get into the playoffs. We take real pride in the Red Wings being in the playoffs

Quoted

"There's no excuses. We have to find a way to get in." Mike Babcock

every year."

The Red Wings, clinging to the eighth and final Eastern Conference playoff spot, faced Montreal on Wednesday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Toronto's Jose Bautista is congratulated after scoring a home run in spring training action against the Philadelphia Phillies on Wednesday in Clarwater, Fla. The Blue Jays won 4-3 and face Philadelphia in a rematch on Thursday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bautista back in the swing for Jays

MLB. Toronto slugger returns to action by belting a homer in his first at-bat

Jose Bautista hit a long home run off Roberto Hernandez three batters into the game, and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Philadelphia Phillies 4-3 Wednesday in a rain-shortened spring training opener for both teams.

Bautista's home run landed outside of the ballpark at Bright House Field. The game was

Spring training in his step

"It felt pretty good, I can't deny that. More importantly, I felt like I was seeing the ball great."

Toronto right-fielder Jose Bautista assesses his performance at the plate

called in the middle of the seventh inning.

Bautista missed the last six weeks of the season with a hip injury, the second straight year in which he ended the season on the disabled list. He hit 28 home runs in 2013 after reaching 27 the year before.

He was 1 for 2 with a walk and two runs scored Wednesday.

day.

Ryan Howard and Marlon Byrd each had run-scoring singles off former Phillies left-hander J.A. Happ in the bottom of the first.

Happ struggled in his only inning against his former team. Although he ended up striking out the side, he gave up four hits and a walk in facing eight

batters.

Hernandez, making his Phillies debut, allowed two runs on four hits in two innings.

Cliff Lee will make his first start of the spring on Thursday, when the Phillies take on the Blue Jays for the second straight day, this time in Dunedin.

But several Phillies regulars will not be in the lineup, including Howard, Jimmy Rollins and Chase Utley.

Toronto is starting knuckleball pitcher R.A. Dickey. But Sandberg says he's not sitting his regulars because of Dickey's unusual pitch.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB. Angels reel in Trout, sign him to one-year deal

Mike Trout has his first seven-figure contract. Up ahead is what figures to be a nine-figure deal.

"It feels good," Trout said Wednesday after agreeing to a \$1-million, one-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels.

The salary is the highest for a one-year major league contract for a player not yet eligible for arbitration who wasn't coming to the big leagues from Japan or Cuba or wasn't required to have a larger amount because of the maximum cut rule. Ryan Howard earned \$900,000 with Philadelphia in 2007 and Albert Pujols with St. Louis in 2003.

Trout will become eligible for arbitration after this season and could become a free agent after the 2017 World Series.

The sides are thought to be discussing an agreement through 2020 in the \$150-million range.

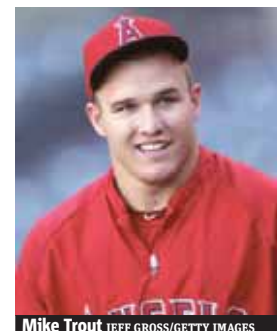
Trout wouldn't talk about

the possibility of a multi-year contract.

By agreeing to a one-year contract now with the 22-year-old, the Angels avoid having a long-term deal count toward their 2014 luxury tax payroll.

Trout was voted AL Rookie of the Year and finished second in MVP voting in 2012, he was second again to Detroit's Miguel Cabrera in MVP voting last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mike Trout JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

Curling

Edmonton rink, Rocque on at worlds

The Canadian women are off to a strong start at the world junior curling championships, but the men are struggling early on.

Alberta's Kelsey Rocque won both her games Wednesday on the first day of the round robin.

Rocque and her Edmonton team of Keely Brown, Taylor McDonald and Claire Tully stole four ends, including a single in an extra end, to score a 7-6 victory over Czech Republic in the first draw.

Later Wednesday they fell behind Italy's Veron-

ica Zappone 5-3 after the Italians stole a point in the seventh, but rallied for three points in the eighth and went on to win 8-6.

She felt the three points in the seventh gave the Canadians some momentum.

On the men's side, the Winnipeg team of Braden Calvert, Kyle Kurz, Lucas Van Den Bosch and Brendan Wilson lost two close games on the first day of competition.

The Canadians lost their first game 8-6 to the 2013 silver medallists from Russia. Calvert followed with a 6-5 loss to Sweden. Calvert stole one in the ninth end to lead 5-4, but Sweden's Fredrik Nyman took a deuce in the 10th. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

It won't be long before your mind is back in the groove. You will have a lot to say for yourself today but be very careful that you don't give away secrets to people who may be your rivals.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

According to the planets, you could make serious money but you need to get serious about your ambitions. Most of all, you need to commit yourself to an objective that may take years to reach. Are you ready?

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You will be challenged over the next few days, but you will rise to the challenge and come out unscathed. Remember: rivals are more scared of you than you need be of them.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You will need to close your ears to criticism today. It does not matter how good a job you do, someone, somewhere, will pick holes in your methods or techniques. Ignore them and carry on as before.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Be careful what you ask for over the next two or three days because you are likely to get it. Why should that be a problem? Because the responsibilities that go with it could take away a lot of the fun.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

You will be more emotional than usual today. But that could actually work in your favour, especially if you have not been too open about your feelings of late. Every now and then it's good to let it all out.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Do something unexpected. The planets indicate that no matter how far you push the limits, at home or at work, others will forgive you. But that's only today. Tomorrow they won't be so generous.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Keep your eye on the ball and keep your mind on what it is you are hoping to accomplish. If you can do that then you will succeed. The approaching new moon will give you added drive and dynamism.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You don't have to rely on other people. You have high hopes for the future and will make quicker progress if don't have to worry about dragging others along behind you.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

For the past two or three weeks you have found it hard to get your thoughts together, which means progress has been slow. Now, your mind will click into gear and you will soon be sailing along.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You don't take risks often but when you do, you go all the way. With that in mind, you are advised to wait until the weekend to follow up on what you are planning. If you start too early you could lose it all.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

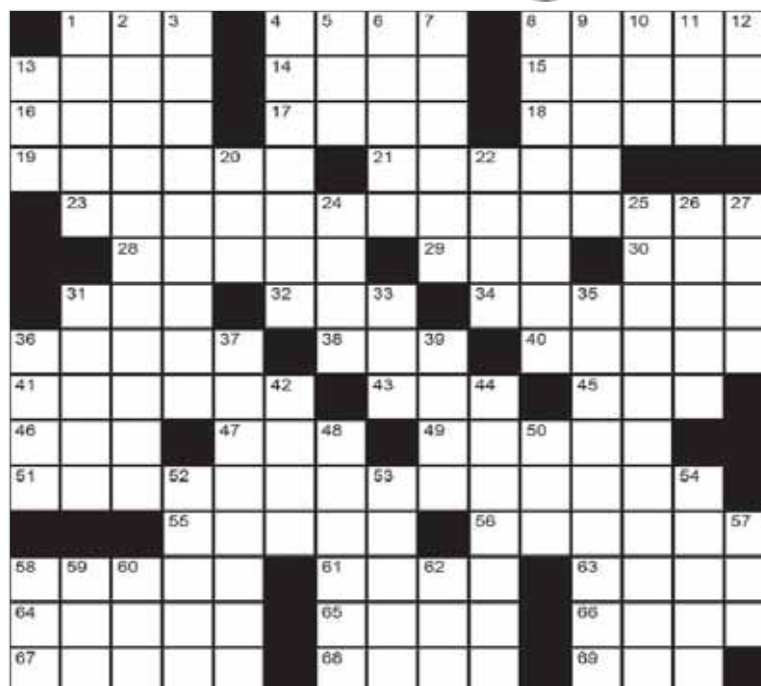
Be assertive and let partners and colleagues know that you intend to put your needs first. This is your time of year and you have every right and every reason to be a little bit selfish.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Possibilities
4. Frost
8. Ancient water nymph
13. Take ___ (Try the drink)
14. Vogue rival
15. ___ boots
16. Saintly symbol
17. Marsh plant
18. Solemn bell sound
19. "You are not!" retort: 3 wds.
21. Farewell, in France
23. Step dancers perform to their music: 2 wds.
28. '70s music
29. Classic game
30. Ms. Long
31. Like
32. Exhaust
34. Fort ___ (Where the American Civil War started in 1861)
36. Roman Empire invaders
38. Seige
40. Sans stopping...: 2 wds.
41. Singer Bonnie's surnamesakes
43. Drivers' org.
45. Actor Mr. Knight's
46. Admiral's org. in The States
47. Juice: French
49. 1985 Power Station hit: "Some Like ___"



51. "The best man in Ottawa...": Lumberjack in the Stompin' Tom Connors song: 3 wds.
55. Flower sort
56. More sore
58. 1998 Edwin McCain song: 2 wds.
61. In ___ of flowers
63. Alfonso XIII's queen's namesakes

64. Sitting spot
65. High
66. Prefix with 'dynamic'
67. "All in the Family" role
68. Opportunity
69. Juiceless

Down

1. Oscar-winning songwriter Mr.

- Hayes
2. Oscars category: 2 wds.
3. It will shine on Ellen DeGeneres as this year's Oscars host
4. Brave acts
5. Corrida call
6. Shake like ___
7. Social news website

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

22. Some apples
24. Outdoors garment
25. "The ___": Piano tune in "The Sting" (1973)
26. 'Nothings' in Nice
27. Chalcedony variety
31. "___ say, not..."
33. BC's ocean
35. "Ace of Spades" British metal band
36. Food
37. Gospels guy, ___
39. Newbie
42. Tallow source
44. In the wrong: 2 wds.
48. Silver fishies
50. "___ Ramsey" ('70s TV Western)
52. Frilly neckwear piece like Austin Powers wears
53. "Easy Livin'" by ___ Heep
54. Beat
57. Record label The Bee Gees were on
58. 'Expert' suffix
59. 19 TV ___ (Production co. for "American Idol")
60. Law: French
62. "Turn to Stone" gr.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



MAX: -11°
MIN: -20°



MAX: -23°
MIN: -24°



MAX: -27°
MIN: -37°



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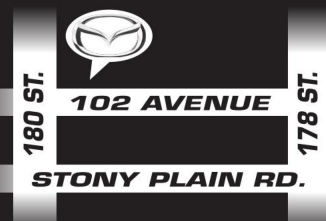
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